

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00192 230812Z

43

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 AID-05 /061 W

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R 230730Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5986

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0192

CINCPAC FOR POLAD AND CORCORAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: PDRL ESTABLISHES COMMISSION ON "HEALING WOUNDS OFWAR";  
FIRST KNOWN RETURN OF SEMINARIST FROM VIENG SAY

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE THAT APPEARED IN  
JANUARY 19 EDITION OF VERNACULAR DAILY "VIENTIANE MAI:"  
THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR HAS ESTABLISHED A COMMISSION  
CALLED "THE COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT NEA  
HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR" COMPOSED OF CHANTHALI  
BANNAVONG AS CHAIRMAN; HOUMPHENG PATHOUMVAN AS VICE  
CHAIRMAN; SITHAT SITHIBOUN, SECRETARY-GENERAL; SENGKEO  
VAN VAYBOUN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY-GENERAL; NANG  
DOUANGCHIT OUTAMA, MR. PAMA SOUNDARA, KOU CHANSINA AND  
SANGNA ABHAY ARE COMMISSION MEMBERS. THE FUNCTION OF  
THIS COMMISSION IS TO STUDY, RESEARCH AND COLLECT INFOR-  
MATION ON SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND HEALING THE WOUNDS OF WAR; TO  
CONDUCT LIAISON WITH VARIOUS MASS AND STATE ORGANIZATIONS  
CONCERNING SOCIAL IMPROVEMENT AND HEALING THE WOUNDS OF  
WAR; AND TO MAKE CONCLUSIONS TO SUBMIT TO HIGHER LEVELS.  
(END TEXT)

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PAGE 02 VIENTI 00192 230812Z

2. COMMENT: WE KNOW NOTHING MORE ABOUT THIS COMMISSION

BUT WILL REPORT WHATEVER WE CAN FIND OUT. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ITS MANDATE INCLUDES CONTACT WITH FOREIGN EMBASSIES OR OTHER AID DONORS, BUT FACT OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT COULD SIGNAL A MORE CONCERTED CAMPAIGN THAN ANYTHING WE HAVE SEEN TO DATE ON "WOUNDS OF WAR" ISSUE.

3. ANNOUNCEMENT IS ALSO OF INTEREST BECAUSE OF RETURN TO VIENTIANE OF HOUMPHENG, WHO WAS DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE IN PGNU MINISTRY OF INTERIOR AND WHO WAS SENT TO VIENG SAY FOR SEMINAR IN APPROXIMATELY AUGUST OR SEPTEMBER 1975. HE IS

THE FIRST OFFICIAL KNOWN TO HAVE RETURNED FROM VIENG SAY AND WAS FIRST SPOTTED BY AUSTRALIAN EMBOFF AT CUBAN NATIONAL DAY RECEPTION, HELD HERE THIS YEAR ON JANUARY 7. HOUMPHENG HAD EXPERIENCED CONSIDERABLE LOSS OF WEIGHT, CAUSING AUSTRALIAN AT FIRST TO QUESTION THE IDENTIFICATION.

4. WE ALSO HAVE UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT "TWO COLONELS," PRESUMABLY OF FORMER RLAF, HAVE LIKEWISE RETURNED FROM VIENG SAY AND BEEN ASSIGNED TO DIRECTORATE OF CIVIL

AVIATION. WILL SEEK CONFIRMATION.  
TEARE

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## Message Attributes

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